PRESIDENT : I may also associate myself and I am sure the House will be glad to associate itself with the comprehensive and discriminating commendation that has been bestowed upon the work of the Legal Remembrancer. He was charged with a task of co-ordinating and bringing up-to-date the commercial laws of the State. Without the codification of commercial laws, the difficulties in the way of the subordinate Judiciary in dealing with all the ramification of modern business would have become increasingly difficult. One of the great objects of codification is to see that the uncertainties and delays of law are avoided, as far as possible. We can only remedy the evil up to a point. But it can be remedied. I take this opportunity to place on record the thanks of the Government to the Legislature for the readiness and the patience with which they have discharged the consideration of these important legislative measures and I wish also to place on record my feelings of very great satisfaction in respect of the strenuous and persevering work turned out by the Legal Remembrancer to whom much praise is due.

THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I rise to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and move that the Bill be read. Before resuming my seat I may be permitted to add that the attempt is to bring up the existing Act to the level at which it is being worked and enforced elsewhere. Honourable members might have noticed that the Travancore Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is based on the corresponding British Indian Act. Recently the British Indian Act was amended. Of course there were earlier amendments to the British Indian Act. But recently some important amendments were made. After going through the Act, Government have been satisfied that similar or at least some of the changes should be introduced here also. Honourable members would notice that in the existing Act, Section 3 is enacted for efficiently dealing with cases of overloading vehicles and over-working the animals. But experience has shown that it is inadequate. Hence it is proposed to be substituted by a new clause. It is also proposed to repeal Section 10 which recognises certain religious rites and usages involving cruelty to animals. This is one step in advance of the law as enacted in British India. At present there is no power reserved with Government for framing appropriate rules. It is therefore proposed to add a new section, 10 (a), empowering Government to frame rules. The absence of this section has been causing very great inconvenience.

I would add that this is a very beneficent and necessary measure and I hope the House would agree with me in so thinking and I believe the House will readily accept the principle contained in the Amendment bill. I move that the bill be read in the House.

DR. C. C. JOHN : I Second it.

The motion was put and carried.

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TITLE OF THE BILL.

SECRETARY: The title of the Bill shall be "The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Amendment) Bill."

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI. Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members to report within four months:—

1. Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar
2. ,, M. L. D'Cruz
3. ,, S. Govinda Pillai
4. ,, N. V. Joseph
5. ,, G. Velu Pillai
6. Dr. Jeevanayagom
7. Mr. K. Kunju Panicker
8. ,, P. S. Muhamed
9. ,, S. Narayana Pillai
10. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai
11. ,, Kottalil P. Abraham
12. ,, Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai and
13. ,, P. Kunjukrishnan

DR. C. C. JOHN: I second it.

The motion was put and carried.

TRAVANCORE FISHERIES ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I rise to introduce the Travancore Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill and move that the Bill be read in the Assembly. From the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, honourable members might have noticed that it is proposed to add a new section to the existing Fisheries Act as Section 24. Under Section 5 of the Fisheries Act, Government are empowered to notify certain poramboke waters as areas within which the catch of fish is prohibited except under a licence. Such notifications have been published and large tracts of *Kayals* adjoining the coastal regions have been declared as notified areas under Section 5. Under the section dealing with private waters, the above restriction is confined to poramboke waters. Taking advantage of this provision, people have been exploiting the resources of the public waters notified under Section 5. The way in which they manage is this. That which is prevented is the catching of fish in certain waters. There are private waters adjoining public waters and if a catch is made in the private waters the Fishery Department is not competent to interfere even though the fish so caught is the fish in the notified area. That could not have been the intention of the Legislature, when it passed that measure. Advantage is therefore taken of this lacuna in the law and people with impunity make openings in the bunds separating the public water and the private water and attract the fish from the public water into the private water and thus defeat the purpose of law. If the bunds are kept in tact the fish in the public water cannot escape or migrate into private waters. It is

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